

"Paul's Letter to the Philippians — 'That Mind Which is Above All Minds - Part 2'"

Review:

- ***The Exhortation: Christ's "Mind" Should Be Ours***

[READ] Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Surely it is clear that this is one of the greatest exhortations in the Bible based as it is on one of the greatest of all subjects, the Incarnation and Redemptive work of our Lord Jesus on Calvary's Cross. His glorious resurrection was the culmination of that great work.

- ***But this exhortation, as we have now seen in two previous studies, is all about Christ's "mind", or His "pattern of thinking". What specifically is the apostle referring to here?***

Let's read the passage and consider what is written for it is wonderful indeed:

[READ] Phil. 2:6-8

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- ***"who being in the form of God . . ." This led us in our last fellowship around God's word here to Hebrews chapter 10:***

Heb. 10:5-7

5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

6 In burnt offerings and [sacrifices] for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

- ***The quotation itself is from Psalm 40:***

Ps. 40:7-8

7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book [it is] written of me,

8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law [is] within my heart.

- *We have already seen how the “will” referred to in Heb. 10:10 is the same “will” as was referred to in Psalm 40 written by David, the very will of God the Father and the coordinated will of our Lord Jesus Christ. For it is written there in verse 8 -- Ps. 40:8 “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law [is] within my heart.”*
- *Here it is revealed what Christ's “mind” was as the necessity of the Incarnation and Atonement came clearly into view.*

So the exhortation here is for believers to do what Christ did, namely, to devote ourselves to accomplishing the will of God, even when everything we ARE in this life may seem to stand in the way. Christ gave up his heavenly glory to become a bondservant here on this earth in the incarnation and then in the atonement.

- *The capstone teaching we saw in our last study was that when all had been accomplished in the cross and the glorious resurrection and ascension, Christ Jesus ascended back to heaven's glory as the God-Man to await the proper timing for his return in victory over all of his enemies:*
- *Though Christ had given up everything he had in heaven's glory, it was only to receive it back again -- WITH FAR MORE BESIDES! Every enemy would be finally vanquished and even satan himself would be included:*

[READ] Phil. 2:9-11

*9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;
11 And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

- *So we see that the full consequences of Christ's death, burial and resurrection go beyond the redemption of sinners alone though that is from our merely human perspective most important. Even the creation itself will be delivered. Of course, satan and his servants will also suffer their eternal fate in the Lake of Fire.*
- *So now we know what the mind of Christ was. And let us look again today at this to better understand what it means to let Christ's mind dwell within us. For God's promises to us are not different in kind with his promises to his Son.*

And, as we shall I trust see clearly today, the principle of First the suffering AND THEN THE GLORY shall also be fulfilled not only for Christ Himself, but also for us! FOR INDEED, WE SHALL BE GLORIFIED TOGETHER WITH HIM.

The fundamental question will therefore be this: What are we willing to do? Will Christ's mind be ours?

Our Outline Today:

- ***The Seven Degrees of Emptying of the Son of God: The Beginning of It All***
- ***The Seven Degrees of Emptying of the Son of God: The Seven Degrees Defined***
- ***The Seven Degrees of Emptying of the Son of God: The Seven Degrees Rewarded -- For Him AND For Us***

I. The Seven Degrees of Emptying of the Son of God: The Beginning of it All:

Phil. 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

- ***"[who], being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God"***

[READ] John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- ***But it was not ALL given up in the Incarnation as the apostle John writes in verse 14 of chapter 1 of his gospel account where we see that though Christ gave up so much he did not give up everything:***

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

II. The Seven Degrees of Emptying of the Son of God: The Seven Degrees Defined:

Phil. 2:7-8

7 But **made himself** of no reputation (1):
and took upon him **the form of** a servant (2):
and was **made** in the **likeness** of men (3):
8 And being **found** in **fashion** as a man (4):

he **humbled** himself (5):
and became obedient unto death (6):
even the death of the cross (7):

- *The structure here shows these verses comprising only one quarter of entire letter but they are the foundation of it all. And there are four sevens here, the first two reference Christ himself and the final two reference the apostle Paul:*

- **Christ's Emptying: Verses 7 & 8:**

- 1) "But made himself of no reputation
- 2) took the form of a servant
- 3) made in the likeness of men
- 4) and found in fashion as a man
- 5) he humbled himself
- 6) and became obedient unto death
- 7) even the death of the cross"

- **Christ's Exaltation: Verses 9-11:**

- 1) "The name above every name
- 2) Every knee shall bow
- 3) Things in heaven
- 4) Things in earth
- 5) Things under the earth
- 6) Every tongue confess
- 7) That Jesus Christ is Lord"

- **Paul's Confidence in the Flesh: 3:5-6:**

- 1) "Circumcised the eighth day
- 2) Stock of Israel
- 3) Tribe of Benjamin
- 4) Hebrew of the Hebrews
- 5) Touching the Law a Pharisee
- 6) Concerning zeal, persecuting the church
- 7) Touching the righteousness of the

Law, blameless

■ **Paul's Confidence in Christ Jesus: 3:8-11:**

- 1) *Gaining the excellency of the knowledge of Christ*
- 2) *Found in Him, not having the righteousness of Law*
- 3) *That I may know Him*
- 4) *The power of His resurrection*
- 5) *The fellowship of His sufferings*
- 6) *Conformity unto His death*
- 7) *The (out) resurrection*

- *And so, as we shall see as we continue in this letter into the third chapter, Paul's own example will be right in the center.*

For we must follow him as he follows Christ. Amen.

- *The preciousness of this is in these words "and be found in Him", verse 9, "not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith".*

Do we comprehend this? In the Incarnation Christ "found" himself in human form and in fashion as a man. And nevertheless he humbled himself as God's will demanded, for it was "written in the book" in heaven.

Paul had also been set forth as lowly indeed and therefore he suffered greatly. Will we suffer ourselves as well by his grace and its all sufficiency? I pray that we will and that we do.

- *Several contrasts and comparisons are revealed here in these verses in chapter 2 that we have been looking at for three studies now:*

- *B. W. Johnson in his "People's New Testament" wrote this saying it so well as he examined the various words the Spirit of God had chosen for Paul as he wrote there:*

"Emptied himself. Of the divine form and glory, and took the form of a servant, of our own race, a race whose duty it is to serve God. The divine glory was exchanged for human lowliness. He humbled himself. Note the infinite condescension: (1) The form of God and sharing the divine

glory. (2) He divests himself of this. (3) Nor does he then take the divine form, or even the form of an angel, but of lowly, sinful man. (4) But this is not all. He not only takes the form of man, but the mortality of the flesh, and dies. (5) Nay, more; he dies the most shameful and painful of all deaths, even the death of the cross."

- *In this way verses 7 & 8 give us an in depth insight into exactly what was involved here when Christ recognized in heaven's glory that it was now "time" to fulfill that which was written. And his "mind" was set on exactly that, the incarnation with everything that that would mean.*

- *As we see written here, he knew all that it would mean because it had been already well established in eternity past, far before the actual creation of the universe, of Lucifer and the angelic host, of then and Eve, and what came after that. All was known from even before the foundation of the world.*

All this had already been agreed upon between the members of the Holy Trinity.

But now the execution of the plan came into clear vision. It was now the occasion of ACTING OUT that plan.

- *Recognizing the gravity of what our Lord undertook as stated here, must we not stand in awe of it and grasp to comprehend its full meaning as it relates directly to us, as the apostle defines this challenge here?*

That we must share in this mind which is above every mind or we will surely be missing what is most important in this life - the living out of newness of life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

III. The Seven Degrees of Emptying of the Son of God: The Seven Degrees Rewarded, For Him AND For Us :

- **His exaltation: Verses 9-11 "The name above every name**
 - **Every knee shall bow**
 - **Things in heaven**
 - **Things in earth**
 - **Things under the earth**

- **Every tongue confess**
 - **That Jesus Christ is Lord"**
- ***The supreme emptying of the Son of God as he took upon himself human flesh -- yet without sin, and then bore our sins in his own body on the cross -- that work beyond all works WAS MET in God's perfect plan with HIS SUPREME EXALTATION.***
 - ***And this is not only redemptively for all of us sinners saved by grace -- though for us that would be enough. For Satan himself and all of his servants must also be judged eternally and the stain of sin must be removed permanently from this earth through its rebirth or renewing. The New Heavens and the New Earth will have been brought to pass finally.***
- ***But that His EXALTATION will also be OURS SOME DAY! That is most precious indeed. For in chapter 3 Paul has written this promise:***

Phil. 3:17-21

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, [that they are] the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end [is] destruction, whose God [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

- ***Paul's confidence is ours as well SINCE our conversation is in heaven. He took upon Himself human flesh and is now glorified. We shall be the same -- all of us who have believed. And, for those of us who take upon ourselves willingly his dying in order that we might also be able to take to ourselves his living and his glory, we shall be shining stars indeed for all eternity.***

But we all shall be glorified together! And He shall gain His long awaited counterpart! Amen and amen.

May the nature of this exhortation be clearly understood this morning. It is a gracious exhortation. Yes, there are special blessings that await IF we willingly receive the abundance of grace. But for all that are saved under grace (by believing that gospel), we shall all together with Him be counted as members of His COUNTERPART, REFLECTING HIS GLORY AND HIS POWER! But for some, it seems, the light shining will be brighter than for others.

So be it.

Conclusions & Application:

- ***The exhortation is clear and powerful: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, WHO ..."***
- ***This is optional, beloved, but it is not optional IF WE WOULD SEEK WHAT THE APOSTLE SOUGHT:***

Phil. 3:7-8

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things [but] loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them [but] dung, that I may win Christ . . .

- ***Amen.***